

Forensic Entomology Workshop!

August 13 – August 24, 2018



At the New Jersey School of Conservation

Learn about collecting and interpreting the evidence gathered at a crime scene!

The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC) is the environmental field campus of Montclair State University (MSU), located 60 miles from the main campus on a 240-acre tract in the Stokes State Forest of Sussex County NJ. The NJSOC is at the center of 30,000 acres of state forest and federal lands, surrounded by The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Stokes State Forest, High Point State Park and a mosaic of properties held by the Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Trust. This unique site is where we are going to set out carcasses to analyze different types of “crime scenes” and learn how to interpret what insects have to tell us about death.



Applicants should be capable of university-level work and passionate about forensic science, crime scene investigation, entomology and field biology. Participants will be selected on a first come first served basis and preference will be given to those with a background in biology.



The New Jersey School of Conservation will run a two-week Forensic Entomology Workshop in August 2017 at the school site in Stokes State Forest.

Some species of insects are attracted to a dead carcass a few hours after death occurs. Therefore, when a dead body is recovered, those insects can provide incredibly useful information as to how and when death occurred, whether or not the body was moved from another location and even about potential drug or alcohol consumption before death. Things like weather and temperature can affect how insects colonize a dead body, so it's important to learn to take these things into account when analyzing evidence at a crime scene.



This workshop will consist of classroom lectures, lab activities and fieldwork. We will discuss how to approach a crime scene, how to collect data and evidence and how to preserve and analyze that evidence. Students will learn about the life cycle and behavior of insects that feed on carcasses or that are attracted to them and about the process of insect colonization of a dead body. Fieldwork will consist of observing carcasses in different stages of decomposition to understand what might have happened after death, collecting insect and other types of evidence from carcasses and from staged "crime scenes" and learning some photographic techniques to document

a crime scene. In the lab, students will observe and identify the insects collected from the crime scenes, they will learn how to make their own microscope slides with their evidence, and they will also have the opportunity to grow insects collected from the scene for identification. Besides learning about forensics, participants will also be able to enjoy activities such as boating, archery, a climbing wall, wildlife watching and hiking,



For more information (including availability of college credit) email

Denise Gemmellaro at denisucciola@yahoo.com or Lauren Weidner at laurenmweidner@gmail.com

The Workshop Will Include:

- Learning how to approach a crime scene and how to collect evidence and data from the scene
- Understanding the role of insects in the process of decomposition and their importance in calculating time of death
- Collecting and preserving entomological evidence
- Identifying what a body goes through after death occurs
- Identification of insects attracted to a carcass
- Discussion of real cases and illustration of case reports

Cost: The workshop will be divided into two (2) **different** one-week sessions, with each week-long session involving a different schedule of activities. The cost to each student will be \$530/person/week; \$800/2 weeks. This fee will include five days of meals and accommodation per week as well as all instruction.

The NJSOC is located at 1 Wapalanne Road, Branchville, NJ, 07826.

<http://csam.montclair.edu/njsoc/>